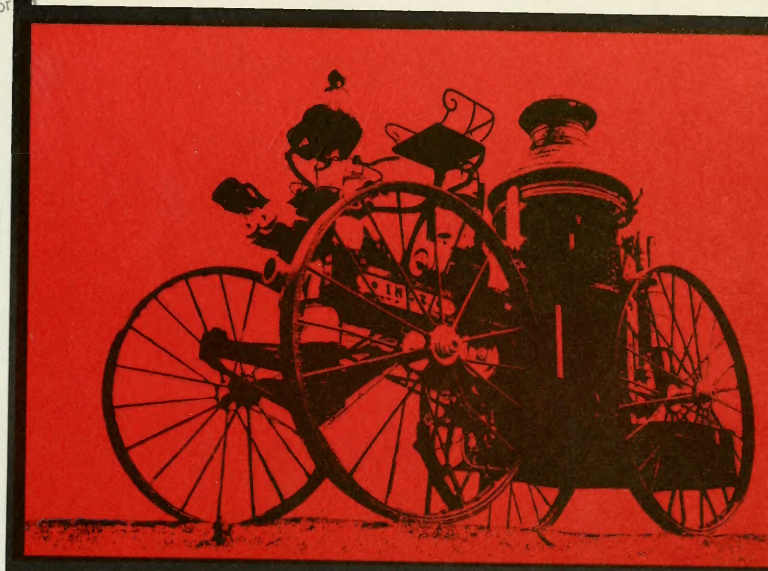


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COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

STAR, NORTH CAROLINA

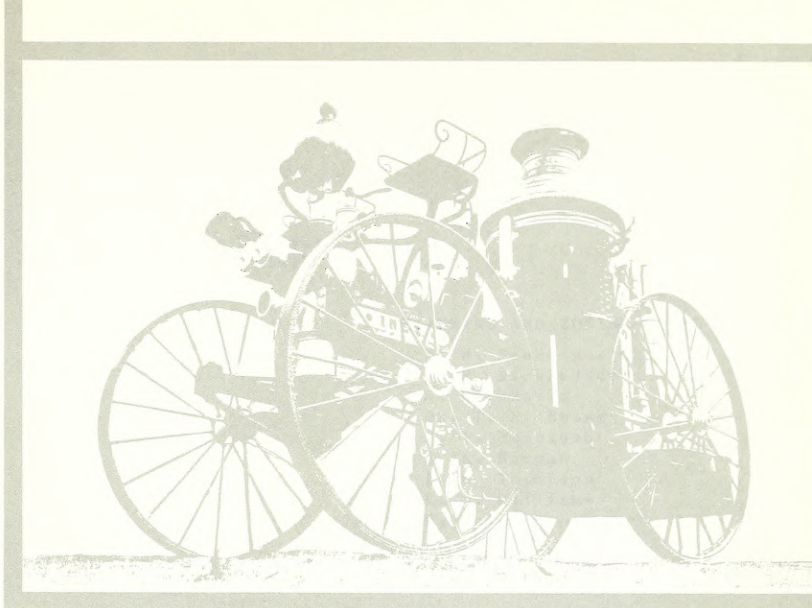
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COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

STAR , NORTH CAROLINA

1965

STAR
NORTH CAROLINA

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Ruby M. Hanlon - Clerk

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A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

Sincerest thanks are owed the many friends of Star whose knowledge made this report possible. To these persons, especially Mrs. Ruby Hanlon, the members of the Planning Board extend their appreciation and best wishes.

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

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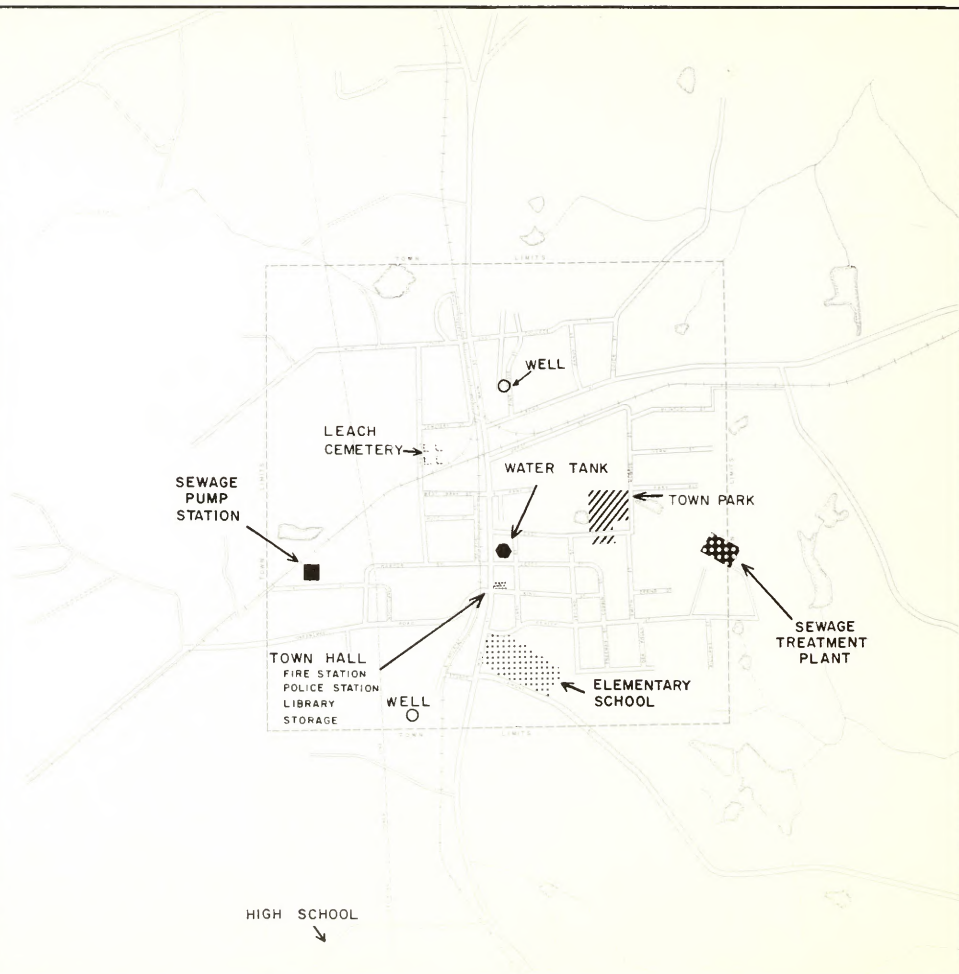
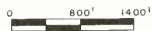
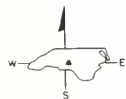
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TOWN OF
STAR

EXISTING
COMMUNITY FACILITIES



COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

I N T R O D U C T I O N

This report contains facts relating to existing and needed community facilities within the bounds of the Star^{1/} planning area. Each of the facilities noted in this report serves a specific need of the community. Each facility is fundamental to Star's present health and future growth. All have important effects upon the community's appearance, convenience, safety and general livability. These facilities provide a wide range of services including such things as fire protection, health care, educational, cultural and utility needs and provide the kind of environment, services and conveniences demanded by the discriminating Star inhabitant and worker.

A plan for community facilities can serve many purposes. A clear understanding of what now exists and is needed for tomorrow will enable the Town of Star more easily to appreciate the need to acquire the necessary facility sites while good locations are still available at not overly inflated prices. The Plan will also encourage long range capital programming for each affected department in order that the construction of new physical facilities can be worked into future budgeting with a minimum of difficulty. Finally, it could very well be useful in assisting the town officials to articulate and secure the attainment of a valid set of civic goals.

^{1/} That area, as defined in the Star Land Development Plan, includes the corporate limits and the fringe area one mile beyond.

Standards and Objectives

Several questions should be kept in mind while reviewing the succeeding account of Star's community facilities. Do improved community facilities help prevent blight? Are the facilities properly located to serve their intended functions? Will a population shift diminish the usefulness of many existing facilities? Are sites adequate, or is a more intensive development of existing land needed? Are the present structures adequate in both size and condition? Are the facilities adequately serving all age groups, such as preschool-aged children, grade school children, teenagers, young adults, middle-aged groups and senior citizens? Are the facilities adequate and capable of serving more intensive residential, commercial and industrial development? At what point or within what range of points in Star's future growth will given facilities have to be replaced or expanded? During what hour in the time of Star's development should it acquire more parks, larger police and fire stations, a better library and all the rest? Are available standards being considered and applied? What variables other than population affect the provision of facilities? Finally, what measurable and what hidden effects do the lack of proper facilities have on community life? If Star does not provide a desirable living climate, those able to leave the Town will do so, taking a large portion of the tax base and leadership ability with them.

Assuming that deficiencies do exist, what are the policies and plans of the agency responsible for the administration of the facility or service doing to correct the situation?

What facilities are needed to improve the community? We should ask ourselves, "What is the one public facility Star needs more than anything else?" It may be an entirely

new facility, or the rebuilding or rehabilitation of an existing one. What can the Town afford? Should the thinking be on a broader basis than the Town for the development and financing of large facilities? The report which follows is designed to identify these conditions and to recommend a program to meet general and specific future needs. In short, there is a need for policy guidance in order to prepare for future facility needs.

The objectives of this report are:

- a. To state the extent of existing facilities;
- b. To provide a source of basic information for the convenience of town officials, interested citizens, business establishments, and others;
- c. To point out community facility deficiencies;
- d. To list Town policies on various phases of community facilities where specific policies have been established;
- e. To note the more important plans for improvement and expansion to meet deficiencies;
- f. To indicate areas in need of further study;
- g. To comment upon the relationship between these facilities and the changes in the community which are now foreseen; and finally,
- h. To emphasize the important role which sound public facilities now and in the future will play in making Star an attractive place in which to live and work.

In meeting these objectives, an attempt will be made to relate a community facilities plan to what is known about community goals, values and needs. The foregoing report uses as its guide the Land Development Plan articulated by the Town Officials in consultation

with planners, engineers and other interested technicians and laymen. The Land Development Plan, it will be remembered, projects population increases, recommends future general land use locations, as well as suggesting the most efficient sites for future industry, commercial and residential areas. It includes a preliminary but comprehensive traffic circulation system. This community facility program should be considered a companion to the Land Development Plan.

In general, standards for judging the adequacy of facilities should satisfy four criteria:

1. They should adequately meet the need for which they are designed to serve;
2. They should be tested by experience;
3. They should be accepted by the populace and by expert practitioners;
4. They should be reasonably attainable.

Only standards which have these qualities will be employed in this report.

Background Information

Resting on a long north-south ridge, Star is situated in the eastern section of Montgomery County, ninety miles southwest of Raleigh.

Star's 1965 population is estimated to be 780, or four percent of the county total. By 1970, this population is expected to be about the same as it is today if Star's present and past share of the county population holds constant. By 1980 the figure will only have reached 830. However, because of the town's relatively high employment (over three times as many jobs as adult workers to fill them) and land capacity (65 percent undeveloped) it is not unlikely that Star will in future years assume more than a four percent population influence in Montgomery County. Those responsible for providing community facilities should be alert to the implications of this growth potential. Should Star build-up rapidly, then the health, safety, economic well-being and livability of its inhabitants would be jeopardized if responsible officials had not mobilized their facilities to meet the population advance.

M U N I C I P A L B U I L D I N G

At the southern entrance to the Star central business district there stands the Town Hall, an all-purpose, one-story brick structure. This facility houses the administrative office of the town clerk, serves as headquarters for the police and fire departments and is the site of the town library. In addition, the Town Hall is used as an operations center for all other municipal services (water, sewer, sanitation, street, tax and license).

This building was used for many different purposes prior to its acquisition by the Town in 1958. Constructed in 1940, the structure was successively used as a storage freezer, knitting mill, training school for mill workers and as of late, the Town Hall.

Standards

A Town Hall is best located at a place accessible to the people and near the business area. If site factors permit enlargements, all the better. There should be adequate space available to permit the efficient conduct of the public business, and off-street parking should be available.

Evaluation

Owing to its small size, unusual design and heavy usage, the Town Hall is inadequate today and is likely to become more inadequate in the future. If the Town's population should markedly increase in the next decade or so, the present facility, with its restrictive size, limited storage space, multi-purpose operation, limited off-street

parking and understaffed administration could not possibly adapt comfortably while handling the attendant increased demand upon its offices.

Despite the above listed problems, it must be noted that the structure appears sound, its operation is as efficient as could be expected and the location of the Hall is excellent. There are no proposals or plans currently being discussed for the expansion of this facility or for an increase in the present staff of two factotums.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Town Hall be enlarged at sometime in the near future and that serious consideration be given to possible location at a new site. In this way, the Town can avoid the confusion, cost and inconveniences of hasty adaptation should change suddenly bring about the need for a larger Town Hall. Thought could at this time be given to the types of additional personnel who might be needed, where they would work and at what cost to the Town. Attention might be focused on determining which departments will most need expanding and where this expansion might best occur. In addition, each use presently engaged in the Town Hall should estimate their future space requirements given certain variables (x population increase, development in outlying area y, annexation of rural fringe, and so on), and having done so prepare to make necessary adaptations should the need arise. In summary, it can be said that the Town Hall could be much better suited to Star's needs if it were relieved of certain functions, expanded or relocated. It is toward the future that the officials and the citizens should look with a confident expression of preparedness, all the while making long term policy plans for whatever re-adjustments future growth and change might necessitate.

F I R E P R O T E C T I O N

An alert, well-equipped fire fighting department makes human life and property safer and the cost of doing business lower. The case for the first part of this statement is obvious; the latter point is based on the fact that insurance costs are lower when a town has a good fire protection rating.

There are few hard and fast standards applicable to a small town. Nevertheless, we can generalize from the guidelines established by the Southeastern Underwriters Association and thus expect the Town of Star to meet certain fire standards. For instance, the fire station should be in close proximity to the principal commercial and central business district areas. The service zone for a fire station in larger towns is, according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters, three-fourths of a mile for the industrial and commercial areas and 1 to 1½ miles for residential districts; in a town like Star this standard can be met without difficulty because of its small size.

Standards

In addition to those standards noted above that are directly related to a town's insurance rating, other factors weigh heavily in determining how well an area is protected and the consequent costs of that protection. A listing of the most important, generally recognized standards are as follows:

- a. The station location should relate to the Town's population density, its building intensity, traffic pattern, construction type and the existing degree of fire hazards.

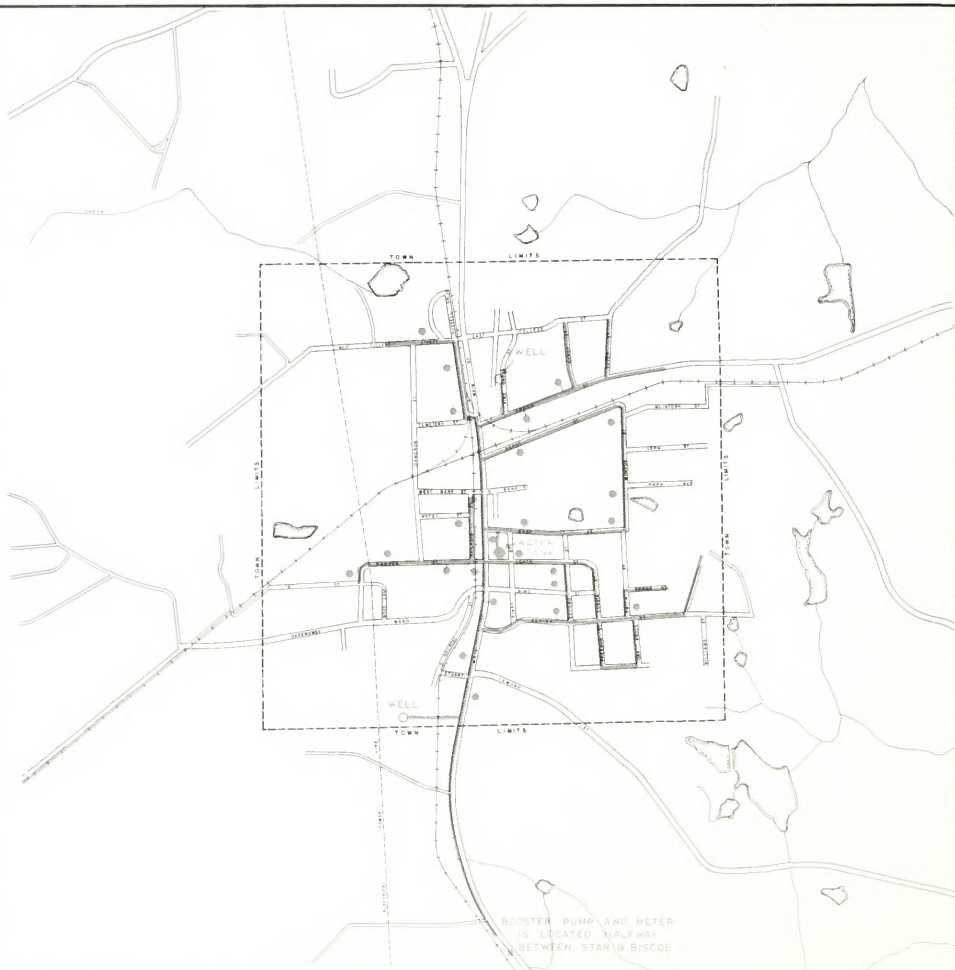
TOWN OF STAR

EXISTING
WATER SERVICE

HYDRANTS



SOURCE: W.K. DICKSON & CO., INC.
ENGINEERS, CHARLOTTE, N.C.



BOOSTER PUMP AND METER
IS LOCATED HALFWAY
BETWEEN STAR & BISCOE

- b. The station should be located close to the major and/or secondary thoroughfare(s), as well as on a sufficiently wide street to permit quick and safe entrance and exit of fire equipment.
- c. The station should not be located at major intersections nor should it be located on a one-way street.
- d. Good sight distance should be obtainable (this requirement eliminates hilly sites and sharp curving roads).
- e. Berthing spaces should be accessible from both the front and rear, thus eliminating the need for backing trucks into the station.
- f. The station should be located on a site of sufficient size to allow for future expansion.

Existing Facilities

The Town of Star has one fire station, considered an engine company which is located in the Town Hall and is manned by a chief and twenty-five volunteers. It meets almost all of the above standards, falling down only on e and f. This company serves Star and four miles beyond its limits in all directions. The equipment includes two 800 gallons per minute pumpers (1949 and 1962 vintage) and a 1,200 gallon capacity water wagon (year 1956). The full complement of accessory equipment is carried on the trucks, including but not limited to five Scott air packs, 1,800 feet of 2½ inch hose, 1,100 feet of 1½ inch hose, four 400 foot booster reels of hose, four ladders, portable pumps and generators and all the standard clothing. Water can readily be obtained from the many hydrants dispersed throughout the Town (See figure 1).

TOWN OF
STAR

HIGH VALUE FIRE DISTRICT



Volunteers are trained in Troy for two weeks, beginning shortly after their selection as firemen. Educational programs are occasionally conducted among the citizenry through film programs, school lectures, poster displays, and so forth in an attempt to alert people to fire hazards and fire prevention techniques.

The communication system consists of radios installed in the Chief's automobile, each fire truck and the base station, plus the general telephone system.

Inspections are conducted at scheduled intervals of time on a yearly basis for residences, business and industrial operations for the purpose of eliminating fire hazards. Inasmuch as a building inspector has recently been employed it is likely that he will receive the records which previously had been stored and forgotten.

An informal agreement now exists between officials of Star and neighboring Biscoe to render mutual assistance upon request.

Evaluation and Recommendations

An examination of the fire service district map (figure 2) indicates that Star's high value and especially the residential districts are generally within the acceptable service area. This is true for both the existing land use pattern and the pattern suggested for Star's future development, as expressed in the Land Development Plan. However, it must be remembered that the area enveloped in a service zone relates only to spatial distance and does not consider how much time is required to move from one given point (the station's headquarters) to another given point (the place of a fire). In Star's case, this time factor could become very important because of the many blockages

and potential blockages in the vehicular circulation pattern. Railroad rights-of-way, if occupied by a train, could combine with the deadend roads and the general congestion on the main thoroughfare (N.C. route 220) to cause a temporary paralysis in the fire service. The only practical solution to this problem is speedy consideration and effectuation of the thoroughfare plan which attends to the above conditions.

The informal agreement now extant between the fire fighting operations of Star and Biscoe should be supplemented by a formal mutual aid agreement. This would not only be advantageous for insurance purposes, but would also assist both towns in their efforts to avoid needless duplication of expenses. Modern fire fighting equipment is very expensive; a clearly understood contract, drafted and executed in a spirit of cooperation will reduce these costs while affording maximum protection for all areas.

Star's fire protection grade is an eight. This seems unfavorable, and in some respects it is, but considering the Town's resources and present population it is actually quite sufficient. In order to obtain a better rating, costly improvements would have to be made, such as the digging of more wells to increase the available emergency water supply, installation of a fire alarm system, retention of a paid, full-time professional staff and other similarly heavy financial investments. Until the Town grows much larger the existing facilities will suffice. As previously noted, whether more people in the years to come choose to make their homes here is a matter which official policy will affect and, by reasoned choice or haphazard inaction, determine. Whatever results will influence the continued adequacy of the Star fire department.

Two specific and a series of general conditions deserve attention in the near future. An emergency telephone reporting system should be one consideration in programming future

equipment. A second important factor to include as a priority investment must be the replacement of the 1949 pumper truck. If not replaced by 1969 the Town will lose its grade eight rating. This is owing to the Underwriters policy that restricts the utility of a vehicle after a twenty year use period. Other general conditions worthy of note in planning the Capital and Public Improvement Programs should include funds for the department's proper organizational arrangement, increased programs of public education, better building codes, and an improved structural environment. Finally, Star policy makers should not rule out the need for an entirely new facility. The present location in the Town Hall serves well today but will not continue to do so if the future bring growth to Star.

P O L I C E P R O T E C T I O N

Considered vital to the welfare and good order of a town, the Police Department of Star is responsible for the protection of life and property, the prevention of unlawful behavior and anti-social acts, the apprehension of offenders and the preservation of the public peace.

Standards^{2/}

Small towns are considered to be adequately protected if:

- a. the police station is situated on a major traffic route for ease to access and unimpaired movement;
- b. the station is located at the periphery of the central business district;
- c. off-street parking is available and easily accessible;
- d. there is a logical relationship, such as proximity or spatial placement, between the police department and town court facilities.

Existing Situation

The Department is located in the clerk's office in the Town Hall. It has one full-time employee, the Chief, who operates this important function on a budget of \$3,900.00.

^{2/} Morton Hoppenfeld, Planning Community Facilities ..., pp. 35-36.

The equipment for this police "force" consists of the chief's own 1961 Pontiac (in which there is a short-wave radio for sending messages and receiving calls), a pistol and an assortment of minor related materials.

The Star Police Department, the Montgomery County Sheriff's office and the North Carolina Highway Patrol cooperate in the necessary enforcement tasks. The detention facilities in Troy are used by Star's chief, though this has seldom been necessary. The predominant enforcement problems are those involving traffic violations.

Recommendations

If, owing to increased growth and development, the Department requires an enlarged staff, a more sophisticated bookkeeping system and additional equipment, then office space will undoubtedly be required. At present, the Police Department, lacking a detention area, separate quarters or extensive equipment, in reality takes up no space whatsoever. All this could change. It would be wise to give consideration to the location, cost and economic feasibility of a future joint facility with the Fire Department at a new location. Such a move would be likely to result in considerable economies in the event such a facility ever were needed.

When (and if ever) the budget permits, the Department might also obtain a vehicle expressly for police purposes, a radar speed detector and an intoxication meter for more objective and scientific enforcement. If additional officers are retained, more equipment will also be in order.

As already noted in the previous section, the railroad lines, street blockages and other impediments to effective vehicular movement are not only an inconvenience to the general public but an obstruction to efficient public service as well. As in the foregoing instance, thoughtful attention to the proposed Preliminary Thoroughfare Plan for Star is recommended.

Two final recommendations relate to the implementation of some of the others. Very close cooperation and sharing of equipment and facilities with the Biscoe Police Department would be well advised, as would be a trip, by Town officials, to the nearest offices of the Surplus Property Utilization Division of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (located on Old Garner Road in Raleigh). It might be found that this office would have on hand federal surplus property for health, educational and civil defense purposes. This, of course, might be of benefit to any given public function in Star.

R E S C U E S Q U A D

The Town of Star is fortunate to have a well organized staff of volunteers poised and capable of saving lives endangered by the sudden accidents of fate and whims of human frailty. Organized in 1965, the Star Rescue Squad is composed of six citizens whose efforts are supported by the larger Montgomery County Rescue Unit. A 1961 Cadillac ambulance is used to answer an average of two calls each month.

No major problems are encountered and the arrangement is adequate for present needs. Future requirements will be directly related to population change and the intensity and direction of land development.

C I V I L D E F E N S E

Star's Civil Defense Unit is inactive, as is Montgomery County's. This county wide inactivity reflects either a general confidence in the wisdom of the modern super-state or citizen apathy at the local level. Whatever the root cause might be, the fact is that Star's former organization of fifteen volunteers has not met for over a year, shelters have not been selected and marked, public education has not occurred and preparations for the worst have not been made.

A Civil Defense program for a Town of Star's size would normally consist of an adult education and shelter management program, police and fire station cooperation and training in medical and self help. At least one member in each family should be knowledgeable in extended medical self help. Yet, Star cannot create a workable program in this area without the support and encouragement of Montgomery County. Town officials might want to inquire as to why little has and is being done in this area.

W A T E R S U P P L Y, D I S T R I B U T I O N A N D S E W A G E T R E A T M E N T

Introduction

Since the earliest times of permanent human habitations, man has had to rely on a method of one kind or another for the removal of waste. Sewer systems, to contemporary man the most familiar of these methods, are not a recent invention. They have been unearthed at Nipper, in ancient Sumeria, dating from 3700 BC. Long before the dawn of the Christian era public sewers were in use at Nineveh and Babylon. None of these disposal systems, however, made any distinction between sanitary sewers and storm sewers. No attempt was made to treat sewage; wastes were simply carried to the nearest body of water and dumped, later to be used again. As cities grew, inevitable calamities occurred. Villages, towns and cities were wiped out by cholera as the polluted water supply caused widespread plagues. On this tragic note, the era of modern sanitary sewage collection and treatment then began.

People today realize the importance of a good sanitation system; yet, because of population increases, rapid urbanization, increased per capita water consumption and the water demands of industries, adequate systems are costly to construct, operate and maintain. This price must be paid, however, in order to safeguard the health of the community. Further, when one considers the long service life and the low necessary maintenance of a public system as opposed to the inefficiencies faced by the individual for a septic tank or other temporary facility, then costs appear moderate after all. Good municipal sewers also aid community development, for they raise the desirability and value of property; attract residential, business and industrial neighbors; and contribute to a self sufficient community that is a source of pride to its citizens. Against this background of history and purpose, how well does Star measure up?

EXISTING SITUATION

Supply

A water system was first established in Star in 1925. The current capacity of the water tank that supplies this system is 75,000 gallons. Star also has two wells, one delivering 160 and the other delivering 150 gallons per minute. In addition, the Town in 1959 extended a trunk line into the Biscoe municipal water system, making possible a 300 gallon per minute flow, if necessary. This system serves the developed area within Star and, wherever necessary, one mile beyond the incorporated area. A minimal charge is levied against the property owner for these extensions beyond the Town limits.

Water pumped from Biscoe is first treated with an Infilco Accelerator; alum, soda ash, calgon and chlorine also are used in the treatment process. Water from the Town's two wells is not treated in any special manner.

Distribution

Water is distributed over a service area that encompasses the Town limits and one mile beyond. All these areas are well served with good water lines, according to the Dickson firm of consulting engineers, which recently completed a study of this system.

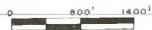
Consumption

Fifty million gallons of water are consumed annually in Star. During those months when the mills are operating at full capacity, peak consumption figures for the town often rise over five million gallons per month. There are water meters presently attached

TOWN OF STAR

SEWERAGE

EXISTING GRAVITY ———
EXISTING FORCED - - - -
NATURAL DRAINAGE —>



SOURCE: W.K. DICKSON & CO., INC.
ENGINEERS, CHARLOTTE, N.C.



to 325 households for the purpose of checking this flow and apportioning costs. The fire fighting demand is considered to be 20,000 gallons.

Sewage Disposal and Treatment

The sewage system in Star has reflected the changing conditions of its society. From 1924 until 1959, all that was involved in waste disposal was a gravity flow system to three Imhoff type septic tank facilities. The advent of increased business and industry and the attendant human population severely taxed the septic tank system until it was proved inadequate and replaced in 1959 with an activated sludge treatment facility costing \$79,500. An addition to this plant costing \$60,000 was just constructed. This process separates liquids from solids as sewage enters the plant and dries the former on open beds, later to be hauled away for use as fertilizer. The plant is located at the eastern edge of the Town limits.

With the addition to the treatment plant noted above, the present handling capacity will be increased from 150 to 350 gallons of waste per minute. There is one pumping station west of the central area that is used for moving sewage over the north-south ridge that peaks at the center of Town (roughly a north-south line sited on U.S. 200). The station consists of two 75 gallon per minute pumps.

Separate storm drainage pipes are located under U.S. 220. Other areas of the Town and beyond its limits are drained by natural gravity flows.

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

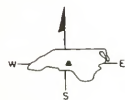
The importance of a plentiful supply of clean water and an effective utility system in general does not require debate and persuasion in Star. Its effect on good living, commercial strength and industrial growth is fully understood and appreciated. Star has a better than adequate water supply, an effective distribution system and a modern plant for treating sewage; nevertheless, the inexorable demands of an unknown future make continued progress a rational necessity. The elected officials of Star can make their Town's future less uncertain by using, among other tools, the public water system to structure development in desired directions. The Land Development Plan outlines general area locations for various types of development. These sectors marked for growth are: 1) for industry, south of and adjacent to the corporate limits along U.S. 220 and the branch railroad line, all along the south side of Depot Street between U.S. 220 and Monroe Street, the area east of U.S. 220 and north of Owens Street (presently used as a lumber mill) and the west side of U.S. 220 north of College Street; 2) for business, the center section of Town along Main Street, the northwest corner of Stuart Street and the southeast corner of East College Street; 3) for social, cultural and recreational development a community center and swimming pool in or adjacent to the park on East Street; and 4) residential development within the Town limits only. If these general area locations are provided with water lines adequate for their respective purposes, desired development at a minimum cost to municipal residents will be encouraged and facilitated. The natural drainage areas should be kept open and free from development in order to preserve their use as storm runoff points. Therefore, the principal recommendation would be to actively employ the utility system as an impetus for realization of the Development Plan. In all present respects, it can be said that the Town of Star is well served by its water and sewer system.

TOWN OF
STAR

STREET CONDITIONS

PAVED 

UNPAVED 



T H E S T R E E T S Y S T E M

Existing Situation

The Town of Star has 7.62 miles of streets, 1.33 which are unpaved, 0.63 which is a soil-gravel stone surface and the remainder is hard surfaced.

Star has no separate street department. The Star Police Chief reports State maintained road deficiencies and dispatches a crew to repair local streets. The major equipment on hand for the latter purpose is a mower and one tar wagon. Revenue for the building of new and the maintenance of existing streets is provided by General and Powell Bill Funds. Major problems are posed by narrow streets, blind or dead endings, few street railroad crossings and limited north-south carriers (there is but one). Possible solutions for these deficiencies in the circulation pattern are offered in the Land Development Plan under the sub-title "Sketch Thoroughfare Plan."

Recommendations

The amount of revenue presently available for needed street construction and maintenance is not sufficient for the execution of the above noted Thoroughfare Plan. In the years ahead, additional revenues should be sought from the General and Powell Bill Funds. It might also be necessary to put before the people a bond issue in order to finance the plan. Adoption of a workable subdivision ordinance that truly would promote the public health, safety and general welfare, lessen congestion, insure orderly layout, secure safety from fire, provide adequate light and air and in all other ways provide for public needs would be an enormous aid to a workable street program. If the

subdivider had to put in all necessary street improvements, the general taxpayer would be relieved of a financial burden for which he receives no benefit. The subdivider would, of course, pass the increased cost of the serviced home on to the eventual buyer who would, due to the economies of scale achieved by the placement of multiple facilities, pay far less than if he had to finance these utilities alone (individually) at a later date. A strong subdivision ordinance would be a useful companion to the Land Development and Thoroughfare Plan and would facilitate their realization.^{3/}

Using the above listed techniques, Town officials might: 1) establish priorities for needed street and other improvements; 2) schedule these improvements over a twenty year period; and 3) program the financing of these operations into future budgets. This systematic, orderly approach will enable both the general public and the interested developers reasonable certainty as to the timing of street and other public improvements relevant to their private actions.

^{3/} Municipalities in Montgomery County do not, at the present time benefit from having the required enabling legislation necessary for this action. The vast majority of North Carolina counties have obtained this privilege from the General Assembly. The community leaders of Star should petition their State representatives to have removed this obstacle to progress.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSITION

Existing Situation

Collection service is provided by the Town to residences, businesses and industries once a week within the city limits. Two men are employed for this purpose. Their equipment consists of a 1962 GMC dump truck. Refuse, meaning solid waste as distinguished from liquid waste or sewage, is deposited on a contractual basis (\$50.00 monthly) at a large 200 acre privately owned farm site south of Star. Here the refuse, which consists of garbage, rubbish, ashes, dead animals, and other animate and inanimate materials are burned, buried and packed into the ground. This method normally results in a volume reduction of about 75 percent of the raw refuse. The residue is organically inert. The operation is not unsightly nor is it a breeding place for rats and vermin. Two problems caused by this operation are air pollution and the continuing expense for dumping rights.

Recommendations

The present disposition site should be considered adequate for Star's disposal needs for many years to come; however, the cost to the Town for the use of this facility could triple in the very near future. The Health Department has notified the owner and operator of the landfill facility that the burning of refuse in order to reduce the total volume is causing a health hazard and should be discontinued. The cost of burying the increased amounts of the raw refuse will bring the monthly charge as high as \$150.00 per month.

The Town officials should be prepared to reevaluate the cost-benefit ratio of continuing this operation should the price required to maintain the present arrangement prove too high. One solution would be to begin using vacant land on the east side of Town for

this dumping purpose. The sanitary landfill method would be recommended for this operation because it would, after ten or twenty years, render the rugged terrain more suitable for development.

S T O R A G E F A C I L I T Y

Existing Situation

Vehicular equipment belonging to the Town of Star is stored or parked in two locations: 1) behind the Town Hall; 2) north of the Central Business Area on Depot Street. In addition, fire trucks are kept within the hall itself. There are no current plans for enlarging, relocating, or replacing either of these facilities.

Recommendations

If growth occurs in the years ahead and a new fire - police station is approved, sufficient land should be set aside for general use as a storage area. A sanitary landfill could, after a suitable time period, render otherwise marshy land areas suitable for construction of a Town garage. The present arrangement is inconvenient, unattractive and some of the vehicles are left unprotected from the ravages of human and natural elements. Until such time as a new and strategic location is feasible, fences should be built around the existing areas and these areas might also be imaginatively landscaped.

E L E C T R I C I T Y

The Town of Star receives its electrical power and services from the Carolina Power and Light Company, whose offices are in Troy. This company maintains a substation in Biscoe. Service is provided within and also outside of the corporate limits. There are also many persons living in rural areas who choose to obtain their power from the Rural Electrification Association; nevertheless, it is the Carolina Power and Light Company that provides Town-wide coverage and installs and maintains street lights, etc. Some people feel that the coverage is not adequate and that more lighting is needed on both the principal and lesser streets. Improvements are currently underway to increase the wattage and install mercury lights along Main Street.

It is recommended that the street lighting conversion to mercury-vapor continue. This system costs no more to operate than incandescent lighting, yet provides better quality lighting. Priorities should be established according to the needs of various areas. The approaches into Star are especially in need of better lighting in order to provide greater safety and to help the traveller become more aware of the surrounding area.

A I R P O R T

Just south of Star is the newly built Montgomery County Airport. This area-wide attraction houses several private planes, is equipped to provide maintenance services and has all the modern features expected at a county serving field. These features include "clear zones" at the end of the landing strip, obstacle clearances, wind direction indicators, landing pattern indicators, airport identification markers and other details made necessary by FAA standard regulations. This general aviation airport is capable of handling virtually all models of light aircraft including the heavy executive type now in use. Medium intensity runway lighting and a night beacon make the airport suitable for night operation. The paved runway measures approximately 3,500' x 75'.

It is recommended that land surrounding the County Airport be kept free from development that could have adverse effects on the safety or desirability of the facility itself. North Carolina cities and towns have legislative permission to establish airport zoning to prevent the establishment of hazards to air navigation such as tall buildings, smokestacks, burning dumps or power lines. Star should not hesitate to apply this power in order to enhance the utility of this fine facility. Finally, and also in the interests of safety and sound planning, would be the use of conventional zoning to prevent the concentration of population in airport approach areas. Such action will prevent noise irritations, protect property values and maintain good public relations between the flyers and the people.

C E M E T E R Y

The Town maintains a ten acre burial ground two blocks west of the central area. Known as the Leach Cemetery for reason of its once being the Leach family graveyard, the Town assumed ownership of this property in 1961. For many years prior to the Town's action, this ground was poorly maintained and used in a haphazard manner with no records kept of the number or location of burials. There were no sales of lots, boundary markings, regular upkeep or group responsibility for the land. It is still difficult to determine the number of plots available for the reasons noted above.

Star sells individual graves in this cemetery for only \$12.50. This is a very fair charge and highly unusual in this present day when private cemetery associations are enjoying a lucrative business selling burial spaces in their landscaped "gardens of eternal rest." The costs of single graves of this nature in Raleigh begin at \$125! With this minimal fee of \$12.50, the Town of Star is able to maintain the grounds in respectable condition while providing a necessary service to its citizens.

It is likely that this facility will be adequate for many years to come.

H E A L T H F A C I L I T I E S

Two facilities relevant to Star, one public and the other private, are the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital and Allen's Convalescent Home, respectively.

The Hospital is located nine miles southwest of Star in the County Seat of Troy. Constructed in 1950, this facility serves the entire county. Two additions have been made since its original construction: one in 1955; the other in 1958. There are 50 beds and a medical staff of seven presently available to serve this area. Further, there is off-street parking for only 50 cars. Additions are in the planning stage, a study of future needs is currently being undertaken at a nearby University and other minor improvements are expected that should have beneficial effects on the quality of service rendered by this facility. Inasmuch as the Public Health Department of the University of North Carolina will soon publish its recommendations, none will be made here.

Though not a public facility, the Allen Home serves an important function in Star. Twenty-seven men and women live here at a site just a few blocks from the park. Residents are attended by a staff of twelve in spacious quarters. There is a long waiting list of elderly persons seeking admission and there is adequate land in which to expand this operation. The time is propitious for such an action.

P U B L I C L I B R A R Y

Introduction

A library is vital to the public pride. It can be a significant asset to a Town's image and be of great interest to its youth. Libraries in this country reflect the strength and growth of democratic society. A responsible and enlightened citizenry wants and needs to inform and educate themselves in order to build upon their social and cultural ideas. Libraries also serve this intention.

Standards

A library should:

- a) freely be available to all the people;
- b) provide a means of self-education;
- c) be a convenient source of information and of thoughtful pleasure;
- d) stimulate study and research;
- e) be generously supplied with off-street parking;
- f) have a registration percentage of 20-40 percent of the adult population and a 35-75 percent registration of youngsters 5-19 years of age.

Existing Situation and Recommendations

Star is served by a branch of the Montgomery County Sandhill Regional Library and has been situated in the Town Hall since 1958. This branch serves Star, its fringe area and the school children who attend the elementary school.

Circulation of books into and out of the library has hovered at approximately 1,000 volumes per month. Shelved and on loan at the present time are 1,860 volumes; this figure is over 2,000 throughout the school year. The branch library also orders films for group purposes, participates in the Bookmobile Program, assists the school children by keeping longer hours and occasionally provides a quiet respite for the harried adult. Unfortunately, the present location in the crowded Town Hall is dreadfully inadequate. Little off-street parking is available, room for expansion of volume capacity is lacking and the seating capacity is a woeful ten! In addition, the Star branch is ill-financed and underused. The local decision makers can do little about the latter condition; there is much they can do about the other problems.

A new facility is of greatest immediate importance. Numerous possible sites would harmonize with this attractive neighbor. The most auspicious among the likely alternatives would seem to be the area adjacent to the Star Memorial Park. This location would be convenient for the youngsters after play or school, would be an idyllic retreat for the adult and a rewarding source of leisure for the senior citizen. Many other areas, suggested as future social and cultural possibilities in the Land Development Plan, are also quite desirable and should be considered (the Town is 65 percent undeveloped!); nevertheless, the ease of access, pastoral setting and functional utility of a park-library-school triangle render this above noted site the most attractive of all possibilities.

Other noted library improvements should be attempted, such as obtaining a higher volume of books, directing appeals for membership and participation among Star adults, provision of comfortable seating arrangements, initiation of local art displays and a

plethora of similar innovations. These changes and others like them would complement the new facility and enhance citizen enjoyment of the library facility. A dynamic town, a growing population, an expanding commerce and an informed citizenry all demand a more intensive, vital and complete library than Star has at the present time. The leaders should view their Town's library as an important aspect of Star's image and a measure of its quality.

R E C R E A T I O N

Introduction

Recreation is a vital force in modern society, an element that enobles the spirit while refreshing the body. The State of North Carolina has shown a continued awareness of its importance for full community living and in recent times the public has demonstrated a corresponding eagerness to use every opportunity provided.

Standards

In applying State and National standards, one should be mindful that the particular characteristics of a Town's situation, such as population size, land area, economic base, and so forth must be fitted into a workable recreation plan capable of meeting the unique needs of individual communities. Considering such factors, a useful set of standards for Star might be as follows:

- a) The program should serve age groups of both sexes, all races and all income groups;
- b) The program should be conducted throughout the year at indoor and outdoor centers, serving all areas within and immediately outside of the corporate limits;
- c) The park or other recreation facility should be conveniently located and easily accessible;
- d) All sections of the park property should have a definite function and contribute to the overall utility and beauty of the facility;
- e) It should be possible to engage in varied forms of recreation at

- different hours and during different seasons;
- f) Adequate space must be provided for playing fields free of encumbrances, obstacles and similar barriers to free movement;
 - g) It ought to be easy for persons who come to the recreation area to engage in or to watch over activities, depending upon their individual preferences;
 - h) The recreation area should present a pleasing appearance from both within and without, even if only limited space is available for planting and other decorative features;
 - i) Long range plans for park acquisitions and changes should be in existence. These would serve as a guide for local authorities concerned with coordinating related facilities;
 - j) Planning for future recreational facilities should consider present school sites and, when possible, should seek to acquire property adjacent to these sites.

Existing Situation

With respect to the above standards, the Town of Star is in a favorable position. Ten and a half acres of woodland are available for park and recreation purposes; in it are contained picnic areas, playfields and an assortment of equipment types for various age groups.

A Recreation Commission was established in 1959, and since that time citizens have asked such questions as: "Should we have a swimming pool, how will we get it and what

will it cost?" How do we increase the utility of our park? These and other questions elicited the support of civic organizations, brought private donations and dedications and helped Star to obtain the fine park area it has today. However, there is much to be done; the pool, for instance, is still a dry vision.

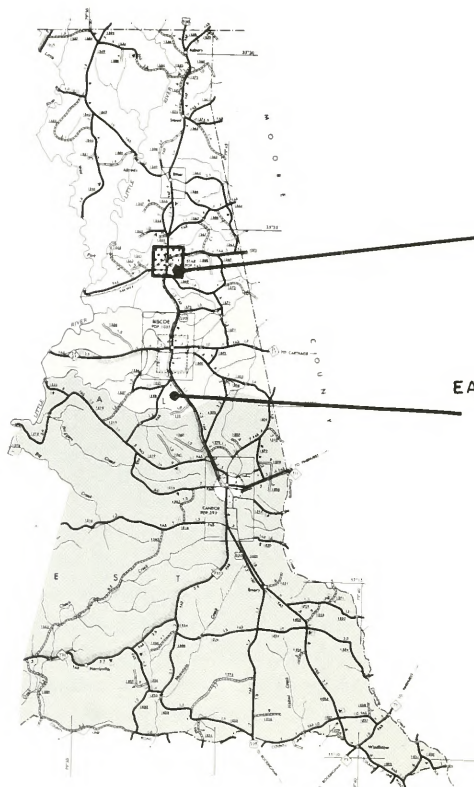
Two students are employed during the summer months to help direct and administer the fun and games. There are in Town high hopes that in the not too distant future there will be added to the park tennis and basketball courts, more and better quality equipment and, of course, a swimming pool.

Star is fortunate to be situated so near the 43,391 acre Uwharrie National Forest. It takes Star residents just a few minutes to reach this recreational area which is especially delightful for picnicking, relaxing and sightseeing.

Recommendations

The National Recreational Association considers ten acres of recreation per 1,000 persons a reasonable standard. Star has a little more than ten acres and a lot less than 1,000 people. In this sense, the Town is doing well; yet, if a future population increase should occur Star should be prepared for it. Joint planning of recreation areas and facilities with the nearby school facilities would reduce costs while increasing the available resources to meet the present and future needs. Community recreational desires and school recreational requirements could be jointly attained by designing such features as the gymnasium, auditorium, play fields, shops, music and art rooms and cafeterias at the two schools in order that activities could be organized so as to permit their evening and weekend use by adults in the community. If this were done at Montgomery County High, for example, the recreational choices of the people of Star would be increased ten fold.

SCHOOL SYSTEM SERVING STAR



STAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GRADES 1-8
ENROLLMENT-459

EAST MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL
GRADES 9-12
ENROLLMENT-479

STAR ATTENDANCE AREA
BISCOE ATTENDANCE AREA
CANDOR ATTENDANCE AREA



THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Standards^{4/}

Numerous institutions and accrediting agencies have published long lists of standards which cities and towns should consider before constructing and while operating educational facilities. Only the principal standards which closely relate to the situation in Star will be noted here. These are:

- a) That school plants should be near the present and expected populations, free from the nuisances created by railroads, factory smoke, noisy enterprises and strip commercial developments;
- b) That elementary schools should be within 30 minutes walking distance and not further than three miles. A high school is best situated within 45 minutes walking distance and not further than one and a half miles. Access should be over improved roads and elementary schools should not be adjacent to a major thoroughfare;
- c) That the site size should be related to the number of students. The recommended relationship for elementary and high schools is presented in the chart below:

No. of Pupils	200-400	500	600	800	1,000
Necessary acres required by Elementary School	10	12	12	15	24
Necessary acres required by High School	12	14	16	20	24

^{4/} Based upon recommended standards of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

d) Finally, the topography should not slope more than ten percent over at least forty-percent of the area.

Existing Situation

Two schools serve the educational needs of the children of Star: Montgomery County High School and Star Elementary School. Both schools meet the above listed standards.

The Elementary School, located at the south end of Town, was built in the early 1920's. It is administered locally by a five member committee. At the present time there are 459 students enrolled in grades 1-8, fourteen classrooms are maintained in the two building facility and the effective capacity is rated as being 500 students. The site size is approximately ten acres. The emphasis at Star Elementary is on providing the students with a general, high school preparatory education. No plans for expansion are currently being undertaken.

The East Montgomery High School, located south of Biscoe off route 220, serves the eastern half of the County. The present enrollment is 497 students, just shy of capacity. The School Board is composed of three members, one representing each of the three towns served (Star, Biscoe and Cantor). Constructed in 1961 with twenty-one classrooms, it has recently been necessary to enlarge on this 150 acre facility. Like Star Elementary, the emphasis at East Montgomery High is on general education, with special technical courses available to those who seek them.

Recommendations

Additional classrooms will be needed to meet the increased enrollment at Montgomery County High. In addition, the cooperation of County School authorities will be instrumental if the proposed adult recreational use of school facilities is ever to be made a reality.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM



PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Introduction

Each public facility in Star has been discussed with reference to an inventory of its available supply, standards for measurement of its adequacy and recommendations for changes of various kinds in order to meet future needs. In fulfilling the proposed recommendations, an organized approach will be found not only administratively convenient but economically sound as well. Efforts should be made to determine the relative priorities for the various departments and to provide a time schedule for program execution. This is the intention and the goal of the Public Improvements Program that will be outlined in the following pages.

The Public Improvements Program is a comprehensive delineation of long-range financial efforts needed for a twenty year period. Specifically, it is defined as follows:

(A program) which identifies and lists public improvements needed to meet existing and projected requirements based on the other plan items. It establishes a priority schedule, with appropriate justification, after taking into consideration relative urgency or public need. The Public Improvements Program¹ provides the groundwork for the community's capital improvements budget.²

The Public Improvements Program is devised on the basis of expenditure estimates for the purchase and construction of needed improvements in relation to the expected revenues from taxes, borrowing and all other sources.

¹/ "Answers on Comprehensive Community Planning," Housing and Home Finance Agency, Program Guide # 2.

It is important to note that the scheduling of improvements outlined in this report is influenced by and, whenever possible, predicated upon, the Land Development and Community Facilities studies. Both studies were earlier undertaken by the Town Planning Board.

Benefits from Programming Public Improvements

There are numerous advantages to be gained from an improvements plan. It helps to insure that projects will be undertaken in accordance with both a predetermined schedule of need and with the Town's ability to pay. It assists the Town in protecting against special interest pressures not necessarily in the public interest. It increases public understanding of the need for bond issues while reminding public officials that there exists only a limited amount of tax funds in the general revenues. The improvement program lengthens the period available for technical design and other needed efforts long before the implementation begins. The plan makes possible the advance acquisition of real estate at reasonable costs to the Town. In summary, the Public Improvements Program weighs the need for various facilities against the community's ability to pay, thus permitting the maximum level of service to the community at minimum cost to the taxpayer.

Methodology of Scheduling Improvements

The schedule presented in the following pages was derived from many listings of priority judgements and from a set of priority criteria. The former factor has to do with a weighing of the combined judgements of planners, individuals in charge of the various facilities, and wherever possible, consultant specialists in the given

responsibility; the latter factor was based on the following set of judgemental criteria:

- a) does it contribute to or insure the protection of life?
- b) does it allow for the maintenance of public health?
- c) does it provide a public service that enhances the convenience and comfort of the citizenry?
- d) does it protect and increase the value of private property?
- e) does it reduce the operating cost of a facility?

Some of the improvements that the Town must provide occur almost at regular time intervals, such as street, sidewalk and minor utility improvements; others are less predictable and thus more difficult to anticipate, such as new locations for overburdened public functions. In the latter instances, detailed engineering and planning studies were employed wherever possible to increase the validity of schedule judgements.

The priorities are scheduled on a five year basis with projects needed over the next twenty year period listed under the appropriate department, along with its justification.

Implementing the Improvements Program

Following the spirit of the plan with action in the years to come should be a continuing process. The priority schedule offered in the following pages should be considered as a general guide and reference for the timing of future acquisitions, purchases and other capital improvements. This report should always be considered flexible, and because of the nature of the report it should be reviewed and updated at least every other year. Economic and other changing conditions militate against a rigid doctrine. In

addition to the above noted reviews, a thorough and further long-range review of each department's program should be initiated at somewhat longer intervals (approximately five years). Such reexaminations can save considerable fiscal difficulties owing to changed conditions and unexpected needs.

The proposed improvements are most usually financed out of current revenues. The current revenue reflects not only the Town's current operating budget, but also reserves (if any) accumulated from special project taxes or operational savings. The current revenue is generally the best way to finance an improvement because it is less costly and more acceptable to the public. However, it will not always be possible to avoid bond issues, especially when current revenues are low and the cost of an improvement is high. In such an instance, bond measures are recommended. In summary, it should again be emphasized that whatever method is used, an eye to the orderly improvements plan is likely to result in economies of time and money.

Recent Fiscal History

The Town of Star is in a very good position at the present time to begin an active program of public improvements. It has more funds available than current expenditures demand, and is operating on a comfortable surplus. The 1964-65 figures were not yet computed at the time of this report, but the figures for 1963-64 clearly diagnose Star's financial good health:

Revenue	\$60,818.88
Expenditures	\$51,825.22
Net	\$ 8,993.66

In addition to this indicator of the Town's ability to carry improvements, it is possible to examine Star's comparative statement of Assets and Liabilities over the same time period. This analysis will show that Assets, chiefly in the form of sewage treatment and other added or enlarged physical properties, have accrued even further. A continuing gain in surplus is predicted for the 1964-65 fiscal year.

Assets	\$356,457.97
Liabilities	\$132,481.83
Surplus	\$223,976.14

Bonded indebtedness at this time is \$111,000.00, a debt incurred principally through water bonds (\$54,000.00) and sewer bonds (\$65,000.00). This is being retired at the rate of \$9,000.00 per annum through general taxes and service charges from water and sewer revenues. Pursuant to North Carolina Law, a municipality shall not incur a bonded indebtedness in an amount exceeding eight percent (8%) of the assessed taxable property value within the Town limits.

The taxable property is currently estimated at \$2,130,984.00 (1964 figure). Eight percent of that figure yields a maximum allowable bonded indebtedness figure of \$170,487.72. Thus, Star can continue to incur indebtedness in order to obtain needed improvements without violating the State's ceiling proscription (eight percent of taxable property valuation). Furthermore, all Revenue Anticipation Bonds such as those for water works, municipally owned gas and electricity and similar enterprises are exempted from the indebtedness. Under present financial conditions, Star is far short of reaching the statutory limit in issuing municipal bonds, whether such bonds be for revenue or

non-revenue producing purposes. 2/

The tax rate in Star is \$1.10 per \$100.00 of Assessed Value which in turn is 60% of what is considered to be market value. The right to raise or lower this tax ratio is held by the Governing Board. Reevaluations are required every eight (8) years. Star's reevaluation occurred last year (1964), therefore, another will not be due before 1972. This gives the Town officials the security of being better able to know what to expect by way of tax revenues in the coming years than would otherwise be possible if a re-assessment were in the offing.

In the preparation of this improvements program, it can be assumed that Star's revenue will increase at least slightly over its current level. The budget now stands at \$70,909.13, a year ago it was \$62,285.52 and the year before that it was \$54,576.78. Add to this trend the fact that additional revenue can be realized through a variety of fiscal maneuvers and adjustments and the conclusion that Star can afford her needed improvements becomes inescapable.

2/ In 1964, the voters approved an additional bond issue for \$50,000.00, though a decision has not as yet been made to issue this bond.

T E N T A T I V E S C H E D U L E O F I M P R O V E M E N T S

1966-1970

- Begin street improvements. It has been demonstrated throughout Star's many planning studies that this is a necessity for safe, efficient and orderly vehicular circulation. The unpaved streets are unsightly, the street jogs are dangerous and the lack of connector roads are inconvenient. A priority schedule should be established for road improvements in cooperation with the State Highway planners, using as a guide the already developed Thoroughfare Sketch Plan outlined in the Land Development Study. Powell Bill funds are available for this purpose.
- Replace 1949 pumper. Fire equipment must be kept current and up to date as well as in good working order. Star's fire insurance rating could be affected if this pumper is not replaced by 1969. These vehicles are given a twenty year usability period, after which time the Fire Insurance Rating Bureau no longer considers them adequate.
- Obtain a motor vehicle for the police and fire chief. Inasmuch as these offices are filled by one man who also is charged with the responsibilities for the water, sewer and road systems, this would be an especially worthy investment.
- Improvements to the water and sewer systems. This will include additional pumps and lines, as suggested by the Dickson Engineers of Charlotte, utility consultants to the Town.
- Street lighting change-over from incandescent to mercury-vapor type illuminants should

continue. Priorities should be established along the general lines outlined in the preceeding facilities plan. As already noted, the new system will provide a better quality of light for the same rate or less.

- Improvement of the Town Hall design and functional arrangement. As noted in the preceeding report, this structure is too small for present purposes and will surely prove inadequate for the increased demands that will be put upon it in the near future. Whether the decision is to enlarge, add to or rearrange, some financial consideration should be set aside for this purpose.
- Ground improvements in the vicinity of the Star Elementary School. Though quite lovely and well maintained in front, the rear lot of this facility does need landscaping. The Community Facilities Report discussed earlier contains a reference to joint development of this area for recreation and park usage. If such action is approved by the Town Officials, this facility will be in need of lots more attention than would otherwise be necessary.^{3/}
- Construction of library facility. This might well be considered the most costly, yet needed action in the near future.
- Acquisition and development of land for use as a sanitary landfill. The reasons for Town adoption of this function, now performed on a contract basis with private interests, are detailed in earlier discussion on waste disposal.

^{3/} The financing for this purpose should be through a combination local, county and public subscription type arrangement.

- Hiring of additional personnel for police activities. This is likely to become a necessary public expense if growth occurs as expected. Funds should be earmarked for this purpose.
- Retention of Planning Consultants (public or private) for assistance in drafting a subdivision ordinance. The need for such a control has already been discussed; if efforts to remove the County proscription on Subdivision Regulations are successful, Star will need at least matching funds to finance this needed study-plan.
- Fence and improve upon the appearance of the Town Storage Facility. Money might also be reserved for the enlargement of this vehicular "garage" for public vehicles within this general time period.
- Additions to and better equipment for the Star Memorial Park and recreation area. The present adequacy of this facility should not breed complacency; minimal expenditures can render it outstanding in the near future. Funds should not be wanting for this intention. One very desired addition that should be included in a near future budget is the long awaited community swimming pool.
- Sidewalks, especially in the downtown area, should be repaired or replaced, as needed. This should not be considered as but a minor cost, for through assessments against the affected merchants, the costs will be shared.
- A plan for the Central Business District. As noted in the Land Development Plan, there are "a sufficient number of people employed in Star to make the downtown a thriving

little business area." An investigation as to why it is not such an area would report on the problems and provide remedies for their correction. Such a plan, if conscientiously followed, would pay for its preparation costs many times over.

- An industrial promotion campaign. Also suggested in the Development Plan, this expenditure could serve as a helpful boost to the business community. It would take the form of a civic endeavor, with Town sponsored events enlivening the carnival-like atmosphere of what would essentially be a business-industrial fair.

1971-1976

- Continue improvements of school and park grounds. By this time it is possible that there would arise a need for an improvement not contemplated in the Community Facilities Report, such as a Community Building at the park site. Advance planning for such contingencies can make such adjustments possible.
- Complete program for conversion to mercury vapor lighting.
- Retain a part-time director to further develop and to administer the Town's park and recreation program. A single responsible person should by this time be needed as the scope of the recreation program is likely to have increased.
- Obtain more equipment and provide better services for the Town Library, which by this time should be in the midst of its expansion program.
- Expend funds for general utility needs. Considerable savings on public use vehicles and other equipment will be realized if Town officials obtain these goods from the regional offices of the United States Surplus Property Utilization Division.
- Acquire communication devices for more effective police and fire protection, such as an emergency telephone reporting system.
- Complete the expansion of the Town Hall.
- Street improvements should be continued.

- Water treatment, water supply and sewage treatment additions should be effected as needed. It is very unlikely that any five year period will go by, especially in a growing town, where no changes are required for these purposes.

1977-1986

- Acquire and develop additional lands for the storage of publicly owned vehicles.
- Continue to maintain a first quality sewage and water treatment system by updating equipment and installing replacements to the system wherever necessary.
- Continue street improvements program leading to completion of the Proposed Thoroughfare Plan.
- Hire an additional policeman to supplement the existing force. This expenditure will provide fuller protection for persons and property in Star.
- Acquire a modern listed aerial fire truck with power-raised ladders and begin efforts aimed at acquiring a full complement of the latest fire-fighting accouterments. These actions will become necessary owing to the obsolescence of aging equipment no longer capable of insuring adequate fire protection.
- Complete redesign of those public offices already improved upon and effect other needed expansions, where appropriate.
- Beautification of cemetery. This action could be considered a part of the open space program, which should also be underway at this time.
- Establish a system or network of open spaces. These park like areas would supplement the Memorial Park. The form of these open areas could be like the early greenbelts around urban centers, including in its system such lands as are now or that are

proposed to be parks, cemeteries, drainage areas, flood plains, and so forth.

- Purchase of additional playground and picnic apparatus. This equipment would be utilized on the above site when warranted by additional growth and development.
- Purchase additional land adjacent to the sanitary landfill (providing that the Town has already begun assuming responsibility for this function as was recommended).
- Replace 1962 fire truck. After this time, the vehicle will have exceeded its twenty-year usability period.

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